

REMARKS

Claims 1-78 are in the application, with Claims 16, 18, 20, 24, 36, 41-43, 48 and 50 having been amended and Claims 1-15, 25-35 and 51-78 having been withdrawn from consideration. Of the claims currently under consideration, Claims 16, 20, 24, 36, 43 and 50 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 16-24 and 36-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to provide an enabling disclosure for "a manuscript ID showing recognition position information of recognition areas in the read manuscript"; and Claims 16-19, 22, 41 and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 for indefiniteness. In response, Applicant has carefully reviewed each of the claims and amended certain claims in order to conform more fully with the requirements of §112, with particular attention paid to the points raised in the Office Action. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the §112, first paragraph and second paragraph, rejections are respectfully requested.

Claim 42 was objected to for the informalities noted in the Office Action. In response, the dependency of Claim 42 has been amended to depend on Claim 36.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 16, 18-20, 22-24, 36, 43 and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) by U.S. Patent No. 5,982,928 (Shimada); Claims 17 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Shimada in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,796,863 (Lyon); and Claims 37-42 and 44-49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Shimada in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,848,187 (Bricklin). Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's remarks and the cited references and respectfully submit that the claims herein are patentably distinguishable over the art, alone or in combination, for at least the following reasons.

Amended independent Claim 16 defines a communication system that performs communication between a terminal and a central control unit. The terminal includes read means for reading a manuscript, including a manuscript ID showing recognition position information of recognition areas in a specific read manuscript, as image data storage means for storing a recognition dictionary group whose members each correspond to each attribute of the image data, character recognition means for performing character recognition from the image data, read by the read means, with selecting a recognition dictionary, based on a control

signal, from the recognition dictionary group, stored in the storage means, manuscript ID recognition means for recognizing the manuscript ID from the image data, and first communication means for transmitting a result of character recognition in the character recognition means and a result of manuscript ID recognition in the manuscript ID recognition means to the central control unit or receiving the control signal from the central control unit. According to the invention of Claim 16, the central control unit includes second communication means for receiving the result of character recognition in the character recognition means and the result of manuscript ID recognition in the manuscript ID recognition means from the terminal or transmitting the control signal to the terminal, and control means for controlling the control signal on the basis of the result of manuscript ID recognition in the manuscript ID recognition means, which the second communication means receives.

Amended independent Claim 36 is written alone the lines of Claim 16. However, Claim 36 does not include the feature of a storage means for storing a recognition dictionary group whose members each correspond to each attribute of the image data. Therefore, Claim 36 is broader than Claim 16 since it does not include the storage means feature.

The applied art of record is not understood to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 16 or 36. Specifically, Shimada discloses a character recognition system having a plurality of connected terminals through which information from the terminals to a host terminal can be exchanged in a cooperation process via a network. Specifically, according to Shimada, a first handwritten data input from terminal 5 and second handwritten data input from terminal 7 are displayed in windows 31 and 32 in Figure 3A, respectively, by a host terminal. The host terminal of Shimada edits contents from the windows 31 and 32 in an edit window in Figure 3B. According to Shimada, when a character recognition command is input, character recognition of each of the first and second handwritten data are requested from the corresponding terminals 5 and 7 such that recognition is performed in accordance with attribute information of the acquired handwritten character information at each terminal. Thereafter, character strings according to the character recognition results are displayed as shown in Figure 4B. In this regard, the Examiner believes that the "attribute information" of Shimada corresponds to "manuscript ID" of the claimed invention. However, "attribute information" in Shimada is terminal ID to classify the terminal as described in column 7, lines 42-52. Therefore, "attribute information"

of Shimada is entirely different from "manuscript ID" of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Shimada does not disclose or suggest a manuscript ID showing recognition position information of recognition areas in a specific read manuscript. Moreover, Shimada does not disclose or suggest a communication system that performs communication between a terminal and a central control unit in which the terminal reads a manuscript including a manuscript ID, recognizing a manuscript ID, transmits a result of manuscript ID recognition to a central control unit and, in the central control unit, controls a control signal on the basis of the result in manuscript ID recognition. Accordingly, Claims 16 and 36 are believed to be allowable.

Claims 20 and 24 are method and computer-readable memory claims corresponding to Claim 16 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons above.

Claims 43 and 50 are method and computer-readable memory claims corresponding to Claim 36 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons above.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO CLAIMS

16. (Amended) A communication system that performs communication between a terminal and a central control unit, said terminal comprising:

read means for reading a manuscript, including a manuscript ID showing recognition position information of recognition areas in a specific read [a kind of the] manuscript, as image data;

storage means for storing a recognition dictionary group whose members each correspond to each attribute of the image data;

character recognition means for performing character recognition from the image data, read by said read means, with selecting a recognition dictionary, based on a control signal, from the recognition dictionary group, stored in said storage means;

manuscript ID recognition means for recognizing said manuscript ID from said image data; and

first communication means for transmitting a result of character recognition in said character recognition means and a

result of manuscript ID recognition in said manuscript ID recognition means to said central control unit or receiving said control signal from the central control unit;

said central control unit comprising:

second communication means for receiving the result of character recognition in said character recognition means and the result of manuscript ID recognition in said manuscript ID recognition means from said terminal or transmitting said control signal to the terminal; and

control means for controlling said control signal on the basis of the result of manuscript ID recognition in said manuscript ID recognition means, which said second communication means receives.

18. (Amended) The communication system according to claim 16, wherein said control means comprises a database for managing said control signal [every kind] for each type of a manuscript that is [shown] represented by a manuscript ID and obtains from said database a control signal corresponding to a manuscript ID shown by the result of manuscript ID recognition in said manuscript ID recognition means.

20. (Amended) A control method for a communication system that performs communication between a terminal and a central control unit, said control method comprising:

a read step of reading a manuscript, including a manuscript ID showing recognition position information of recognition areas in a specific read [a kind of the] manuscript, as image data;

a character recognition step of performing character recognition from image data, read at said read step, with selecting a recognition dictionary, based on a control signal, from a recognition dictionary group whose members each correspond to each attribute of the image data;

a manuscript ID recognition step of recognizing said manuscript ID from said image data;

a first communication step of transmitting a result of character recognition at said character recognition step and a result of manuscript ID recognition at said manuscript ID recognition step to said central control unit or receiving said control signal from the central control unit;

a second communication step of receiving the result of character recognition at said character recognition step and the result of manuscript ID recognition at said manuscript ID

recognition step from said terminal or transmitting said control signal to the terminal; and

a control step of controlling said control signal on the basis of the result of manuscript ID recognition at said manuscript ID recognition step, which said second communication step receives.

22. (Amended) The control method for a communication system according to claim 20, wherein said control step obtains from [the] a database a control signal corresponding to a manuscript ID shown by the result of manuscript ID recognition at said manuscript ID recognition step.

24. (Amended) Computer-readable memory that stores program code for controlling a communication system that performs communication between a terminal and a central control unit, said computer-readable memory comprising:

program code for a read step of reading a manuscript, including a manuscript ID showing recognition position information of recognition areas in a specific read [a kind of the] manuscript, as image data;

program code for a character recognition step of performing character recognition from image data, read at said read step, with selecting a recognition dictionary whose members each correspond to each attribute of the data, on the basis of a control signal;

program code for a manuscript ID recognition step of recognizing said manuscript ID from said image data;

program code for a first communication step of transmitting a result of character recognition at said character recognition step and a result of manuscript ID recognition at said manuscript ID recognition step to said central control unit or receiving said control signal from the central control unit;

program code for a second communication step of receiving the result of character recognition at said character recognition step and the result of manuscript ID recognition at said manuscript ID recognition step from said terminal or transmitting said control signal to the terminal; and

program code for a control step of controlling said control signal on the basis of the result of manuscript ID recognition at said manuscript ID recognition step, which said second communication step receives.

36. (Amended) A communication system that performs communication between a terminal and a central control unit, said terminal comprising:

read means for reading a manuscript, including a manuscript ID showing recognition position information of recognition areas in a specific read [a kind of the] manuscript, as image data;

character recognition means for performing character recognition from the image data, read by said read means, on the basis of a control signal;

manuscript ID recognition means for recognizing said manuscript ID from said image data; and

first communication means for transmitting a result of character recognition in said character recognition means and a result of manuscript ID recognition in said manuscript ID recognition means to said central control unit or receiving said control signal from the central control unit;

said central control unit comprising:

second communication means for receiving the result of character recognition in said character recognition means and the result of manuscript ID recognition in said manuscript ID

recognition means from said terminal or transmitting said control signal to the terminal; and

control means for controlling said control signal on the basis of the result of manuscript ID recognition in said manuscript ID recognition means, which said second communication means receives.

41. (Amended) The communication system according to claim 40, wherein said control means comprises a database for managing said control signal [every kind] for each type of a manuscript that is [shown] represented by a manuscript ID, and wherein said control means obtains from said database a control signal corresponding to a manuscript ID shown by the result of manuscript ID recognition in said manuscript ID recognition means.

42. (Amended) The communication system according to claim [1] 36, wherein said control signal includes positional information, showing each of plural recognition area in said manuscript, and a threshold for judgement of unrecognizableness in each recognition area.

43. (Amended) A control method for a communication system that performs communication between a terminal and a central control unit, said control method comprising:

a read step of reading a manuscript, including a manuscript ID showing recognition position information of recognition areas in a specific read [a kind of the] manuscript, as image data;

a character recognition step of performing character recognition from image data, read at said read step, on the basis of a control signal;

a manuscript ID recognition step of recognizing said manuscript ID from said image data; and

a first communication step of transmitting a result of character recognition at said character recognition step and a result of manuscript ID recognition at said manuscript ID recognition step to said central control unit or receiving said control signal from the central control unit;

a second communication step of receiving the result of character recognition at said character recognition step and the result of manuscript ID recognition at said manuscript ID recognition step from said terminal or transmitting said control signal to the terminal; and

a control step of controlling said control signal on the basis of the result of manuscript ID recognition at said manuscript ID recognition step, which said second communication step receives.

48. (Amended) The control method for a communication system according to claim 47, wherein said control step obtains a control signal corresponding to a manuscript ID shown by the result of manuscript ID recognition at said manuscript ID recognition step from a database for managing said control signal [every kind] for each type of the manuscript [shown] represented by said manuscript ID.

50. (Amended) Computer-readable memory that stores program code for controlling a communication system that performs communication between a terminal and a central control unit, said computer-readable memory comprising:

program code for a read step of reading a manuscript, including a manuscript ID showing recognition position information of recognition areas in a specific read [a kind of the] manuscript, as image data;

program code for a character recognition step of performing character recognition from the image data, read at said read step, on the basis of a control signal;

program code for a manuscript ID recognition step of recognizing the manuscript ID from said image data; and

program code for a first communication step of transmitting a result of character recognition at said character recognition step and a result of manuscript ID recognition at said manuscript ID recognition step to said central control unit or receiving said control signal from the central control unit;

program code for a second communication step of receiving the result of character recognition at said character recognition step and the result of manuscript ID recognition at said manuscript ID recognition step from said terminal or transmitting said control signal to the terminal; and

program code for a control step of controlling said control signal on the basis of the result of manuscript ID recognition at said manuscript ID recognition step, which said second communication step receives.